

**Back Page**

June 20 2015

<b>Jalalabad</b>	Clear	<b>Ghazni</b>	Clear	<b>Kandahar</b>	Clear	<b>Mazar</b>	Clear	<b>Herat</b>	Clear	<b>Bamayan</b>	Clear	<b>Kabul</b>	Clear
	41°C 28°C		32°C 16°C		43°C 27°C		43°C 26°C		40°C 22°C		25°C 12°C		34°C 21°C

**Daily Outlook Weather Forecast**

# Ghani Tells Parliament Term will be Extended

KABUL - In a meeting with the heads of the various parliamentary commissions on Thursday, President Ashraf Ghani reportedly confirmed his intent to extend the term length of the current Parliament in order to avoid a power vacuum from emerging in the absence of a new round of parliamentary elections.

Chairman of the Legal and Judicial Commission Mohammad Abdoh said Ghani indicated Parliament would still have the authority to monitor government activities, approve laws



and the national budget, if indeed its term is extended beyond June 22. "In the meeting, the president made it clear that he was strongly in support of Parliament continuing its job, because the absence of Parliament could pose harm to democracy and differentiation of power," Abdoh told TOLONews on Thursday. Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi has said Ghani will announce his final decision regarding the fate of Parliament ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Wolesi Jirga May Continue Until Elections: Abdullah

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday said a decision would be taken soon to allow the Wolesi Jirga or lower of house of parliament to continue until parliamentary elections were held. Abdullah expressed these views during a meeting with Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, the European Union (EU) special representative and ambassador to Afghanistan, a statement from the CEO office said. It said both the sides discussed



developments and latest changes concerning Afghanistan's politics, security and other issues. They stressed the implementation of democracy in Afghanistan. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Former Education Minister Denies 'SIGAR Report on Ghost Schools'

KABUL - Former education minister Farooq Wardak strongly refuted on Friday a report by a U.S. watchdog accusing Afghan officials at the Ministry of Education (MoE) of embezzling millions of dollars by providing

that Afghan MoE officials had repeatedly been profiting off of aids for the schools that actually didn't exist in the country. The report stated that the donors had been provided with fraudulent data and statistics of schools.

"Ministers have reported that no schools are open in the insecure parts of Afghanistan, but former officials have forged the numbers and have embezzled the money," SIGAR head John Sopko said on Thursday.



fake school statistics to the donors. The U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) exposed in its recent report

"These claims show that the United States might have paid aid money for schools that did not exist." However, former president Hamid ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## SIGAR MoE Faked School Statistics, Embezzled Donations

KABUL - In a recent report by the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), it is alleged that officials from the Afghan Ministry of Education (MoE) have repeatedly provided fraudulent data to donors in order to personally profit off of donations for schools.

"Ministers have reported that no schools are open in the insecure parts of Afghanistan, but former officials have forged the numbers and have embezzled the money," SIGAR head John Sopko said on Thursday. "These claims show that the United States might

have paid aid money for schools that did not exist." Current Minister of Education Asadullah Haneef Bakhi has discussed the "ghost schools" and fraudulent statistics in the past, and said such corruption has made it difficult for his ministry to approach donors for legitimate needs.

"In some of the insecure areas, there are no schools, but the benefits, opportunities, money for infrastructure, money for teachers and so on have been taken," Minister Bakhi told TOLONews.



According to SIGAR, as of March 31, 2015, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had spent 769 million USD to support education in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

## 1st Woman Judge Nominated to SC High Council

KABUL - For the first time in the troubled history of Afghanistan, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday introduced a female judge Anisa Rasooli as Supreme Court (SC) High Council member.

As per presidential decree, "article 64, clause 12 of the constitution of Afghanistan, female judges can be appointed. She shall have a higher education in law or in Islamic jurisprudence, and shall have sufficient expertise and experience in the judicial system of Afghanistan."

According to presidential decree, the minister for parliamentary affairs has been tasked to introduce the female judge to Wolesi Jirga for vote of confidence. It merits mention that for the first ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## No One Has Doubt That Azerbaijani Lands were Occupied

BAKU - Afghanistan has repeatedly supported Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Afghan Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mohammad Taqi Khalili told Trend. He said since the beginning of this tragedy, it has been clear that this is an obvious aggression. "On one side you see an aggressor, on the other side you see the rightful defenders," said the ambassador. "I think no one has doubt that the Azerbaijani territories have ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Insecurity in Faryab Left over Hundred Families Displaced

MAIMANA - Constant insecurity over the past three months has left about 150 families displaced in northwestern Faryab province. Taking refuge in Dehdadi district of northern Balkh, these families strongly accused the government of neglecting their basic needs of food, water and shelter, according to TOLONews reporter Arif Musavi who visited these families in Ahmad Abad village. "They [Taliban] killed my wife and my son and injured another little child," Abdul Rashid said, claiming that the Taliban looted his house as well. Furthermore, the insecurity has also resulted in dozens of children to be left away from education, putting their future ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Afghanistan to Launch Online Marketplace

KABUL - Afghanistan plans to launch its first online marketplace to allow local businesses to export products directly to world markets, an official said Thursday, the latest effort to boost the country's stalling economy.

The Afghanistan International Commodity Exchange Market will aim to provide businesses access to international TRADERS ONLINE and boost the exports for the landlocked economy that is reliant on trade routes through neighboring countries. "In the past 14 years, Afghanistan ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Balkh Govt. Departments Riddled with Corruption

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - All government departments in northern Balkh province are riddled with corruption, but the level of graft varies from one institution to another, a public representative says. Provincial Council Chairman Mohammad Ibrahim Khairandesh made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of a meeting in Mazar-i-Sharif. At the gathering, the Women and Youth Support Society unveiled a survey on corruption, a study based on interviews ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Pentagon Reports of Daesh Preparations to Confront Taliban

WASHINGTON - A recent report released by the Pentagon states that Daesh is expanding in Afghanistan and preparing to confront the Taliban.

According to the report, the Taliban are also monitoring Daesh's activities, and the two groups have already faced off in confrontation on several occasions.

Based on comments by senior U.S. officials, it appears Washington's continued involvement in training, advising and supporting the Afghan security forces has taken on a new objective in combating the expansion of Daesh. "ISIS's last year defeat still requires forces to fight and prevail on the ground," U.S. Secretary of Defense ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## IS Strength Leads to Instability in CIS Countries and China, Tajikistan

BISHKEK - Serali Central Asian region should not become the center of geopolitical confrontation of the great powers, claimed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Tajikistan Serali Khairulloyev on Thursday. He noted that, the rise of

Islamic fundamentalism is growing in its most extreme form and escalation of international relations resulting in the danger of war. The real military threat is going not from the particular countries but from the extremist movements as Islamic State, Taliban, ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## About 1,500 Militants Mass in Afghan Areas near the Border with Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Commander of Tajik Border Troops Rajabali Rahmonali has warned of about 1,500 militants, including members of the Islamic State (IS) group, concentrating in the Dahsti Archi and Imam Sahib districts of Afghan Kunduz province along the Tajik border. In a statement re-

leased at the 73rd meeting of the Council of Border Troops Commanders of the CIS member nations in Dushanbe, Rahmonali noted on June 18 that that there members of the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Islamic State, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and Ansarullah among the militants ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Ghani and Foreign Dignitaries Deliver Ramadan Messages

KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani delivered his Ramadan message on Thursday and wished all Afghans well over the Holy month and said this was a good time for all Muslims to stop fighting each other. Ghani also called on the security forces to ramp up efforts to security the country so that the public can engage in their daily prayers and routines in peace.

Meanwhile, Commander of the U.S. Resolute Mission in Afghanistan, Gen. John Campbell, on Thursday extended his best wishes to the

people of Afghanistan as the nation observes Ramadan. "I want to extend my best wishes to the noble people of Afghanistan as you observe Ramadan. I send greetings to Muslims observing Ramadan in Afghanistan, and throughout the South Asia region," he said.

"On this holy occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to a long-lasting partnership with Afghanistan. And we join you in praying that this ancient and beautiful land soon enjoys



the peace and prosperity it so richly deserves." "During these days of fasting, prayer, and worship, as you ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Children Pick up Arms to Fight Taliban in Southern Provinces



KABUL - Groups of Afghan children said mostly to be under the age of 15 have picked up arms in a number of southern provinces to fight the Taliban. Although the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has said that arming Afghan youth is not necessary, it has also not outright denied any involve-

ment in the matter. The children are said to be motivated by their hatred for the Taliban, a group responsible for many deaths, injuries and destruction in their communities. "They [Taliban] killed my father, and I will not leave my country to them so long as I am alive," one ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## MPs Urge Local Residents, Taliban to Turn Against Foreign Militants

KABUL - In the wake of a series of kidnappings by foreign militants, a number of MPs from Zabul province on Wednesday urged their local residents and the Taliban to take up arms against the foreigners and push them out of the province. The remarks came in response to the recent abduction of five family members in Zabul, which followed the kidnapping of 31 bus passengers earlier in the year. The lawmakers appealed to both local communities and armed opposition groups composed of Afghans, looking to inspire outrage against foreign militants by

banding Afghans against outsiders. Neighboring Ghazni province's acting deputy governor, Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, said two women, one child and a man were kidnapped in Zabul last week. According to Ahmadi, just this week, local Taliban leaders told tribal elders that the hostages were abducted by foreign militants. The Taliban has allegedly claimed these foreigners are the same ones that were behind the kidnapping of the 31 bus passengers. "The abductors are foreign insurgents who kidnapped the ...*(More on P4)...(22)*